

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03789 280940Z
ACTION SCS-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9564

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3789

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, ET
SUBJECT: COMPENSATION CLAIMS: MISSIONARY PROPERTY AND AIRCRAFT

1. AMBASSADOR TALKED TO FORMER AMERICAN MISSIONARY WHO HAD BEEN MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AMERICAN MENNONITE OPERATED HOSPITAL IN NAZARETH WHICH "TAKEN OVER" LATE JUNE/EARLY JULY. SOURCE INFORMED THAT HOSPITAL HAD BEEN OPERATED UNDER CONTRACT, THAT CONTRACT HAD EXPIRED, THAT MENNONITES HAD RECEIVED LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR THEIR WORK OVER LAST 30 YEARS, AND THAT NEW BUILDING AT HOSPITAL HAD BEEN FINANCED BY MENNONITE CHURCH IN GERMANY. HE PROMISED LETTER TO EMBASSY FROM CANADIAN NATIONAL WHO HAD BEEN CHAIRMAN HOSPITAL BOARD CONFIRMING ALL THESE FACTS.

2. OTHER FORMER MISSIONARIES JOINED DISCUSSION AND THEY AGREED THAT GENERAL PRACTICE OF MISSIONARIES WAS NOT TO BE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PROPERTY. IF THEY HAD TO LEAVE, THEY TURNED OVER THE PROPERTY WHICH THEY COULD NOT OR DID NOT WISH TO TAKE WITH THEM TO LOCAL COMMUNITY OR FAITHFUL. THUS THERE WOULD BE FEW PROPERTY CLAIMS. AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE A SPECIAL CASE. ASKED WHETHER THEY KNEW THE DONALD MCCLURE'S
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SENIOR AND JR. (COMPENSATION CLAIMS 15 AND 16), THEY REPLIED THAT DONALD MCCLURE SENIOR WAS KILLED IN OGADEN IN 1977 BY SOMALI SHIFAS OR BANDITS. FILE CHECK IN CONSULAR SECTION CONFIRMS THIS: 77 ADDIS 1878 AND PVIOUS AS WELL AS REPORT OF DEATH OF WILLIAM DONALD MCCLURE APRIL 15, 1977. SON WILLIAM D. JR. WAS WITH HIS FATHER NEAR GODE, ETHIOPIA

WHEN HE WAS KILLED. WIDOW MRS. LYDIA MCCLURE WAS
IN ADDIS AT THE TIME. BOTH SURVIVORS ARE REPORTEDLY
LIVING IN ZIONSVILLE, PA. TODAY.

3. JERRY PIERCEY (COMPENSATION CLAIM 19 IS
REPORTEDLY STILL IN MISSIONARY WORK IN AFRICA AND
LOCAL MISSIONARIES WILL ATTEMPT TO GET IN TOUCH
WITH HIM THROUGH MUTUAL FRIENDS TO SEE IF HE HAS ANY
INTEREST IN PURSUING A CLAIM FOR HIS AIRCRAFT.
THE PLANE HAD REPORTEDLY CRASHED AT A REMOTE
LOCATION BEFORE IT WAS NATIONALIZED AND PIERCEY
ALLEGEDLY WAS "TINKERING AROUND" TRYING TO GET IT
AIRWORTHY AGAIN.
CHAPIN

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Message Attributes

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